

## SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 12, 2001  
Resources Building  
Sacramento, California

### **Action Team Report**

Paula Landis reported on Action Team Activities. The Action Team met on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Modesto. The primary topics of discussion were letters of support. Landis explained the process for the approval of a letter of support. This process can also be found on the SJRMP website:

<http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sjd/sjrmf/documents/approvalprocess.html>

Presenters at the meeting included: Dave Boucher, Friends of the Tuolumne, Jennifer Vick, Stillwater Sciences, Parry Klassen, Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship, Patrick Fitzmorris, Ducks Unlimited, Jeff Mitchell and Leisa Huyck, UC Davis, and Patrick Koepele, TRPT. Also discussed was the issue of aggradation by Paula Landis for Alex Hildebrand. A letter was to be drafted to the Corps Comp Study to address the issue of aggradation. The next Action Team meeting will be held at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto on November 6, 2001, at 1 p.m.

### **Letter to Corps Comp Study on Aggradation Issue**

Alicia Kirchner and Jerry Gianelli, both with the Comp Study, addressed aggradation as an Initial Project (IP). Kirchner mentioned that a preliminary report by Mussetter Engineering gives an overview on sediment analysis, but a more detailed study is necessary. She also explained the four criteria for a project to be considered an IP. Steve Yeager, Reclamation Board, suggested attacking aggradation in a broader arena. Tim Ramirez also added that Pete Rabbon, Reclamation Board, and Patrick Wright, CALFED are meeting to work on the issue and address the problem. Ramirez and Yeager will talk to other people to get it done.

### **Presentation for Letters of Support**

There were a total of nine letters of support for approval under Action Items. Six proponents were in attendance to give presentations. Landis mentioned that the letters must follow an approval process before SJRMP can endorse a letter. This approval process can be found on the SJRMP website (see above). The following pages are summaries of the presentations.

### **Bobcat Flat Instream Restoration 2 River Mile 44 Channel Restoration**

Dave Boucher, Friends of the Tuolumne, gave a presentation to the group on the proposal to be submitted to CALFED's ERP funding cycle. The proposal includes gravel introduction, moving the channel into the floodplain, extending the channel length and lowering the channel gradient to improve spawning velocity. Boucher added that the project is in a prime location with large piles of tailings for fill and also provide spawning gravel for salmon. The estimated budget for the proposal is \$2 million. The letter was approved.

### **Merced River Dredger Tailings Reach**

Jennifer Vick, Stillwater Sciences, also presented to the group requesting a letter of support for their CALFED proposal. The proposal includes restoration implementation in the Dredger Tailings Reach of the Merced River. Vick informed the group that the tailings were the result of the river being dredged for gold in the twentieth century. Vick showed to the group illustrations of the conceptual restoration approach and discussed the current framework consisting of four tasks. She also mentioned that the Merced River watershed area is approximately 1,200 square miles defined by five (5) geomorphic reaches. The cost for this proposal is \$8.56 million. The letter was approved.

### **Evaluate, Demonstrate, and Promote Irrigation Return Flow Technologies in the San Joaquin River Watershed**

Parry Klassen, CURES, presented their CALFED proposal to the group. Klassen mentioned that there was a change in the title of their project. The new project title is *Evaluate, Demonstrate and Promote Management Practices to Reduce Impacts of Irrigation Drainage within the San Joaquin River Watershed*. He discussed that irrigation flows are identified as a non-point pollution source in the lower San Joaquin River from Mendota Dam to Vernalis. Klassen also mentioned that one of the objectives is to get an idea of what it costs to do the project for the farmers. The estimated cost for the proposal is \$2.7 million. The letter of support was approved with minor changes.

### **Central San Joaquin Floodplain Restoration**

Pat Fitzmorris, Ducks Unlimited (DU), gave a brief summary to the group on their CALFED proposal. The project proposal is designed to create riparian wetland areas, improve water quality, and create habitat for fish and migratory birds. Fitzmorris added that setback levees would be built, along with excavating oxbows and channel work. Fitzmorris also explained DU's project approach, which consists of hydrologic modeling, a feasibility study, the design, permits, final engineering, and bid-ready contract. The estimated total budget is \$2.1 million. A copy of the proposal will be given to Alex Hildebrand and Pete Rabbon for review. They will discuss their comments with Fitzmorris, and make changes to the letter of support if necessary.

### **Management Protocols for Agroecosystem Conservation in the San Joaquin Valley**

Jeff Mitchell and Leisa Huyck, UC Davis, briefly described the proposal they submitted to CALFED for funding. The title of this proposal is *The ecological and economic costs and benefits of alternative agricultural practices: Sediment, nutrient, and pesticides in runoff from conservation tillage and cover cropped systems*. They discussed the effects of conservation tillage and its benefits. Some of the tradeoffs mentioned include water quality, less runoff, less nutrients and reduce winter runoff. The project is being implemented in three sites, UC Davis, Yolo County, and Stanislaus County. The letter was approved.

### **Tuolumne River Floodplain Restoration-La Grange**

Patrick Koepele, TRPT, gave a presentation to the group on their proposal. Koepele mentioned that Stanislaus County owns 200 acres of Tuolumne River floodplain near the town of La Grange. He added that the project is included in the park system of the Master Plan. Koepele explained that the proposal includes reconstructing the floodplains under the current flow regimes, remove sand deposits, increase compatibility, and plant native riparian vegetation. Out of the 200 acres owned by Stanislaus County, 77 acres will be involved in the pilot demonstration project. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.2 million. The letter was approved.

### **Other**

It was suggested for future meetings that representatives from the SJRMP Water Quality Subcommittee and the Comp Study attend the meetings to provide updates.

Date of next meeting: December 7, 2001

**ATTENDEES AT  
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
October 12, 2001**

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Manucher	Alemi	DWR	(916) 651-9662	malemi@water.ca.gov
Dave	Boucher	Friends of the Tuolumne	(209) 537-5628	dboucher@netfeed.com
Neil	Dubrovsky	USGS	(916) 278-3078	nmdubrov@usgs.gov
Pat	Fitzmorris	Ducks Unlimited	(916) 502-2167	pfitzmorris@ducks.org
Jerry	Gianelli	Comp Study	(916) 557-7828	jgianelli@spk.usace.army.mil
Sergio	Guillen	DWR	(916) 651-8137	sguillen@water.ca.gov
Sam	Harader	CALFED	(916) 651-6170	sharader@water.ca.gov
Alex	Hildebrand	SDWA	(209) 823-4166	hildfarm@gte.net
Leisa	Huyck	UC Davis	(530) 752-2023	lhuyck@ucdavis.edu
Campbell	Ingram	CALFED	(916) 651-6482	cingram@water.ca.gov
Alicia	Kirchner	Comp Study	(916) 557-6767	akirchner@spk.usace.army.mil
Parry	Klassen	CURES	(559) 325-9855	parryk@mediaone.net
Patrick	Koepele	TRPT	(209) 236-0330	patrick@tuolumne.org
Robert	Lampa	DWR	(559) 230-3370	rlampa@water.ca.gov
Paula	Landis	DWR	(559) 230-3310	plandis@water.ca.gov
Liz	Mansfield	NRDC	(530) 676-8171	ehmansfield@aol.com
Madelyn	Martinez	NMFS	(916) 930-3605	Madelyn.Martinez@noaa.gov
Jeff	Mitchell	UC Davis	(559) 646-6565	mitchell@uckac.edu
Deborah	North	SJRPCT	(530) 574-3025	dnorth@riverparkway.org

<b><u>First Name</u></b>	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>
Pete	Rabbon	Rec Board	(916) 653-5434	
Tim	Ramirez	Resources Agency	(916) 653-5672	tim@resources.ca.gov
Bonnie	Ross	DWR	(916) 654-4202	bross@water.ca.gov
Monty	Schmitt	NRDC	(415) 777-0220	mschmitt@nrdc.org
Abigail	Smith	CVRWQCB	(916) 255-6315	smithah@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov
Jennifer	Stone	TID	(209) 883-8535	jjstone@tid.org
Jennifer	Vick	Stillwater Sciences	(510) 848-8098	jen@stillwatersci.com
Marcia	Wolfe	FWUA	(559) 359-2633	yakimapark@aol.com
Steve	Yeager	Rec Board	(916) 654-7746	